



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

February 18, 2004

## **OREGON MAN INDICTED IN INTERNATIONAL SEX TOURISM CASE**

PORTLAND, Oregon — A 50-year-old Oregon man was arraigned in federal court here yesterday on charges of traveling to Kenya to engage in sexual acts with a minor. Lester Christian Weber was named in a seven-count indictment handed down Wednesday alleging that he traveled to Kenya last year where he knowingly engaged in a sexual act with two victims under the age of 12.

The indictment also charges Weber with aggravated sexual abuse, using the Internet to entice a minor to engage in sexual acts, and possession and transportation of child pornography. Weber was arrested December 3, 2004, and has remained in custody since.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In January 2004, ICE agents from Portland traveled to Nairobi, where working closely with the Kenyan National Police, they conducted several interviews and served a search warrant as part of the investigation.

Several of the charges lodged in this case are being brought under the provisions of the recently enacted PROTECT Act, which substantially strengthened federal laws against predatory crimes and others involving the exploitation of children. If convicted, Weber faces up to life prison for each count of aggravated sexual abuse, and up to 30 years imprisonment on the enticement and traveling charges.

The investigation leading to yesterday's indictment is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

#ICE#